

Congregational Renewal Response Group
November 8 & 9, 2012

Present: Don Ng, John Duckworth, Elisai Echevarria, Kay Farley, Bill Frederickson, Nancy O'Neill, Dean Parker, Koreen Villers, Jeff Woods, & Marilyn Tyson

Rev. Thomas Trageser, Sr. Liaison for Church Ministries and Mr. Lee Manis, Director of Bible Engagement Resources, American Bible Society joined the group for a presentation of some of the resources available from the American Bible Society. The purpose of these resources is to provide a way to engage church members in Bible study. Materials of the *Brick by Brick* study of the Book of Nehemiah were reviewed by the group. The ABS is currently working on a Book of Acts resource with plans to develop an Isaiah study and then a Romans study. There was discussion about using the materials as presented, adapting the material for American Baptist use as well as the possibility of developing materials specifically for American Baptists.

It was decided that there needs to be further study and several committee members agreed to further review specific materials especially noting items which might not fit in ABC churches and what things which might be missing. John Duckworth will review the stewardship materials; Kay Farley will review the *Brick by Brick* materials; and Koreen Villers will review *The Least of These* materials. There will be further discussion at the June meeting.

Jeff's activity report was reviewed by the Group.

Transformed by the Spirit (*TbyS*) updates, which had been shared with the Group prior to the meeting, were reviewed. Jeff explained the process of ACT (Action Challenge Teams) working to identify the adaptive challenge underlying the ministry challenges which were previously named. The next step in the process is transitioning into ALT (Action Learning Teams) which will design experiments to address the identified adaptive challenge. Groups will be asked to share their learnings which result from the experiments.

There was a question concerning the trust issue between various levels in the denomination. Jeff indicated that there have been reports indicating that the trust level between churches and the denomination is being raised.

Jeff also spoke briefly about plans for the Mission Summit/Biennial. One goal of the Mission Summit conversations is to have people from across the denomination come together to resource each other. Outcomes from *TbyS* will provide the basis for some of these conversations. The group gave feedback to the Mission Summit design offered by Jeff.

The need to list Board of General Ministries Directors on the ABCUSA website was noted.

The meeting was closed with prayer.